THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee are awaited.

NH-17

2577. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-17 from Mangalore to Udippi and Karvar is in a very bad shape;

(b) by when this National Highway would be converted into four-lane;

(c) whether the trucks carrying iron ore and granite weighing almost 40 tonnes ply on this road and have destroyed the road;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to rectify this situation;

(e) whether large number of disastrous accidents have taken place during the last one year or so; and

(f) the, steps taken to prevent such calamities on this National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) A few stretches between Mangalore-Udupi-Karwar section of NH-17 are bad. However, these are already included under "Renewal Programme" for the year 2007-08 for improvement.

(b) Four laning of NH-17 is being taken up in a phased manner. The work of four laning from Mangalore to Surathkal is already in progress and is likely to be completed by June, 2008. The stretch from Surathkal to Kundapur has been identified for four laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. For the remaining reach from Kundapur to Karnataka/Goa border, the process for engagement of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report for four laning is under way. The target date for completion of four laning of the above stretches can be known only after finalization of the Detailed Project Report and award of works.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Overloaded vehicles are plying on this section of NH-17. Ministry has been writing to the State Government for checking the movement of overloaded vehicles as per existing legal provisions. The State Government have already initiated action in this regard by installing a weigh bridge near Shirur (Udupi District) to check the overloaded trucks.

(e) and (f) Some minor accidents have taken place in this stretch of NH-17. However, necessary safety measures like improvement of riding quality, road signage, road marking etc. are taken for avoiding such road accidents. Further, after the conversion of existing two lane road to four lane divided carriageway, the accidents will be reduced significantly.